
Demographic Profile

Changes in Age Composition

**Lancaster County Nebraska
Projections for the Year 2020**

This report examines projected changes in the age composition of the Lancaster County (Nebraska) population through the year 2020. The information presented in this report has been compiled from data available from the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Department and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Business Research. The report was prepared by the City-County Planning for use in the "Multi-Modal Transportation Plan Study."

The balance of this report is divided into the following sections: (1) Data Sources: Background; (2) Projected Age Composition: Lancaster County 2020; and (3) Appendix.

Data Sources: Background

In support of the City of Lincoln's and Lancaster County's most recent comprehensive planning process, projections of future population levels were completed in 2001. These population projections were employed in formulating the *Year 2025 City-County Comprehensive Plan*. This Plan assumes that the City's and County's population will grow at an annualized rate of 1.5 percent between the base year of 2000 and the year 2050. In the nearer term, this rate of growth reflects the following levels of population for the City and County over the next 25 years:

Year	City	County
2000	225,581	250,291
2005	243,015	269,634
2010	261,796	290,473
2015	282,029	312,922
2020	303,825	337,106
2025	327,306	363,158

As part of this endeavor, no effort was made by the researchers to conduct a breakdown of the overall population by age cohorts. Such information was not deemed a necessary part of the overall Comprehensive Plan process.

Independent of the City-County comprehensive planning effort, however, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Bureau of Business Research (BBR) did prepare a series of population projections and age breakdowns for all 93 Nebraska counties. These projections provide a total population and age cohort estimates (in 5 year increments) for each Nebraska county.

Since the Bureau's overall population estimates for Lancaster County varied from those used in the City-County Comprehensive Plan, it was not possible to directly utilize the BBR projections. Instead, the Comprehensive Plan total population figures were divided into age cohorts using the percentages for each cohort calculated by the Bureau.

For example, the Bureau projected that 13.97 percent of Lancaster County's population in the year 2020 would be under 10 years of age. This percent (i.e., 13.97%) was then applied against the Comprehensive Plan's total population for the year 2020 of 337,106 persons. This resulted in an estimated of 47,095 persons under the age of 10 for Lancaster County in the year 2020.

Also, the Bureau's projections were only for a twenty year period and are based upon the 2000 U.S. Census. As such the age cohort estimates presented later in the report only go through the year 2020.

Projected Age Composition: Lancaster County 2020

Figure 1 shows the historic and projected age distribution for Lancaster County's population between 1980 and 2020. (The years 1980, 1990, and 2000 reflect actual Census figures. No mid-decade (i.e., years ending in the numeral "5") estimates are available for this time period.))

Comparing the years 2000 and 2020, the County's overall population is expected to increase by almost 87,000 persons -- an increase of nearly 35 percent over the two decades. The pattern of growth within broad age cohorts is as follows:

- **Persons Under 20 Years of Age** – Individuals under the age of 20 would increase fairly substantially over the 20 year period from about 69,312 persons in the year 2000 to 97,122 persons in the year 2020 - an increase of 27,810 persons. As a percent of the overall County population, however, the change is much less dramatic. These individuals comprised about 27.7 percent of the County's population base in the year 2000 – this would rise only marginally to 28.8 percent in the year 2020.

Figure 1.
Lancaster County
Population History and Projections: 1980-2020

Total Population								Change2000-2020	
Age	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	Absolute	Percent
<10	25,932	30,536	32,854	36,917	41,046	43,616	47,095	14,241	43.35%
10-19	32,086	30,423	36,458	38,263	40,663	45,322	50,027	13,569	37.22%
20-29	48,294	43,254	48,242	48,393	50,372	52,934	56,237	7,995	16.57%
30-39	26,540	37,238	36,792	37,915	39,143	39,363	41,254	4,462	12.13%
40-49	16,809	25,298	37,124	38,660	38,137	39,491	40,704	3,580	9.64%
50-59	16,609	16,079	25,094	32,158	36,268	37,819	37,336	12,242	48.78%
60-69	12,962	14,660	14,536	17,201	23,687	30,367	34,206	19,670	135.32%
70-79	8,802	10,092	11,950	11,721	12,001	14,417	20,028	8,078	67.60%
>80	4,850	6,061	7,241	8,407	9,156	9,591	10,220	2,979	41.14%
TOTAL	192,884	213,641	250,291	269,635	290,473	312,920	337,107	86,816	34.69%

Percentage Distribution							
Age	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
<10	13.44%	14.29%	13.13%	13.69%	14.13%	13.94%	13.97%
10-19	16.63%	14.24%	14.57%	14.19%	14.00%	14.48%	14.84%
20-29	25.04%	20.25%	19.27%	17.95%	17.34%	16.92%	16.68%
30-39	13.76%	17.43%	14.70%	14.06%	13.48%	12.58%	12.24%
40-49	8.71%	11.84%	14.83%	14.34%	13.13%	12.62%	12.07%
50-59	8.61%	7.53%	10.03%	11.93%	12.49%	12.09%	11.08%
60-69	6.72%	6.86%	5.81%	6.38%	8.15%	9.70%	10.15%
70-79	4.56%	4.72%	4.77%	4.35%	4.13%	4.61%	5.94%
>80	2.51%	2.84%	2.89%	3.12%	3.15%	3.07%	3.03%
TOTAL	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

- **Persons Between 20 and 59 Years of Age** – While this reflects a distinctly broad age grouping, 20 to 59 year olds make up the prime workforce component of the population. Over the next twenty years, the age group would grow from 147,252 persons to about 175,531 persons – or about 28,279 additional persons. This is only slightly greater than the absolute increase for those under 20 years of age, while representing a much broader range of age groups. Over 40 percent of the increase would occur in the 50 to 59 age group, further reflecting an ever aging population base for the County.
- **Persons 60 Years of Age and Older** – Persons at the top end of the age profile are projected to increased from 33,727 persons in year 2000 to 64,451 persons in year 2020. This increase of 30,724 persons equates to a 91.1 percent total increase over this two decade period. The greatest growth in this age groping will occur among persons 60 to 69 years of age. This 10-year age cohort is projected to account for nearly two-thirds of the increase for person over 60 years of age.

Appendix

The remainder of this report presents a series of tables and graphs reflecting further detail figures from this analysis.

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Appendix A
Lancaster County
Population History and Projections: 1980-2020
Population by Five Year Age Cohort

Age	1980	1990	Change 1980-90	2000	Change 1990-2000	2005	Change 2000-05	2010	Change 2005-10	2015	Change 2010-15	2020	Change 2015-20
<5	13,356	15,403	2,047	16,680	1,277	19,566	2,886	20,650	1,084	22,112	1,462	24,102	1,990
5-9	12,576	15,133	2,557	16,174	1,041	17,351	1,177	20,396	3,045	21,504	1,108	22,993	1,489
10-14	12,451	13,268	817	15,944	2,676	16,839	895	18,138	1,299	21,288	3,150	22,413	1,125
15-19	19,635	17,155	(2,480)	20,514	3,359	21,424	910	22,525	1,101	24,034	1,509	27,614	3,580
20-24	27,849	23,734	(4,115)	28,055	4,321	28,958	903	29,994	1,036	31,448	1,454	33,184	1,736
25-29	20,445	19,520	(925)	20,187	667	19,435	(752)	20,378	943	21,486	1,108	23,053	1,567
30-34	15,690	19,477	3,787	18,014	(1,463)	19,859	1,845	19,158	(701)	20,093	935	21,091	998
35-39	10,850	17,761	6,911	18,778	1,017	18,056	(722)	19,985	1,929	19,270	(715)	20,163	893
40-44	8,572	14,908	6,336	19,141	4,233	19,274	133	18,596	(678)	20,607	2,011	19,811	(796)
45-49	8,237	10,390	2,153	17,983	7,593	19,386	1,403	19,541	155	18,884	(657)	20,893	2,009
50-54	8,457	8,289	(168)	14,797	6,508	17,532	2,735	18,920	1,388	19,089	169	18,453	(636)
55-59	8,152	7,790	(362)	10,297	2,507	14,626	4,329	17,348	2,722	18,730	1,382	18,883	153
60-64	7,042	7,595	553	7,647	52	9,991	2,344	14,226	4,235	16,873	2,647	18,200	1,327
65-69	5,920	7,065	1,145	6,889	(176)	7,210	321	9,461	2,251	13,494	4,033	16,006	2,512
70-74	5,030	5,656	626	6,441	785	6,299	(142)	6,640	341	8,738	2,098	12,502	3,764
75-79	3,772	4,436	664	5,509	1,073	5,422	(87)	5,361	(61)	5,679	318	7,526	1,847
80-84	2,638	3,213	575	3,801	588	4,287	486	4,272	(15)	4,268	(4)	4,578	310
85+	2,212	2,848	636	3,440	592	4,120	680	4,884	764	5,323	439	5,642	319
TOTAL	192,884	213,641	20,757	250,291	36,650	269,635	19,344	290,473	20,838	312,920	22,447	337,107	24,187

Source: City/County Planning Department and UNL Bureau of Business Research

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Appendix B
Lancaster County
Population History and Projections: 1980-2020
Percentage by Five Year Age Cohort

Age	1980	1990	Change 1980-90	2000	Change 1990-2000	2005	Change 2000-05	2010	Change 2005-10	2015	Change 2010-15	2020	Change 2015-20
<5	6.92%	7.21%	0.29%	6.66%	-0.55%	7.26%	0.59%	7.11%	-0.15%	7.07%	-0.04%	7.15%	0.08%
5-9	6.52%	7.08%	0.56%	6.46%	-0.62%	6.43%	-0.03%	7.02%	0.59%	6.87%	-0.15%	6.82%	-0.05%
10-14	6.46%	6.21%	-0.24%	6.37%	0.16%	6.25%	-0.13%	6.24%	-0.00%	6.80%	0.56%	6.65%	-0.15%
15-19	10.18%	8.03%	-2.15%	8.20%	0.17%	7.95%	-0.25%	7.75%	-0.19%	7.68%	-0.07%	8.19%	0.51%
20-24	14.44%	11.11%	-3.33%	11.21%	0.10%	10.74%	-0.47%	10.33%	-0.41%	10.05%	-0.28%	9.84%	-0.21%
25-29	10.60%	9.14%	-1.46%	8.07%	-1.07%	7.21%	-0.86%	7.02%	-0.19%	6.87%	-0.15%	6.84%	-0.03%
30-34	8.13%	9.12%	0.98%	7.20%	-1.92%	7.37%	0.17%	6.60%	-0.77%	6.42%	-0.17%	6.26%	-0.16%
35-39	5.63%	8.31%	2.69%	7.50%	-0.81%	6.70%	-0.81%	6.88%	0.18%	6.16%	-0.72%	5.98%	-0.18%
40-44	4.44%	6.98%	2.53%	7.65%	0.67%	7.15%	-0.50%	6.40%	-0.75%	6.59%	0.18%	5.88%	-0.71%
45-49	4.27%	4.86%	0.59%	7.18%	2.32%	7.19%	0.00%	6.73%	-0.46%	6.03%	-0.69%	6.20%	0.16%
50-54	4.38%	3.88%	-0.50%	5.91%	2.03%	6.50%	0.59%	6.51%	0.01%	6.10%	-0.41%	5.47%	-0.63%
55-59	4.23%	3.65%	-0.58%	4.11%	0.47%	5.42%	1.31%	5.97%	0.55%	5.99%	0.01%	5.60%	-0.38%
60-64	3.65%	3.56%	-0.10%	3.06%	-0.50%	3.71%	0.65%	4.90%	1.19%	5.39%	0.49%	5.40%	0.01%
65-69	3.07%	3.31%	0.24%	2.75%	-0.55%	2.67%	-0.08%	3.26%	0.58%	4.31%	1.06%	4.75%	0.44%
70-74	2.61%	2.65%	0.04%	2.57%	-0.07%	2.34%	-0.24%	2.29%	-0.05%	2.79%	0.51%	3.71%	0.92%
75-79	1.96%	2.08%	0.12%	2.20%	0.12%	2.01%	-0.19%	1.85%	-0.17%	1.81%	-0.03%	2.23%	0.42%
80-84	1.37%	1.50%	0.14%	1.52%	0.01%	1.59%	0.07%	1.47%	-0.12%	1.36%	-0.11%	1.36%	-0.01%
85+	1.15%	1.33%	0.19%	1.37%	0.04%	1.53%	0.15%	1.68%	0.15%	1.70%	0.02%	1.67%	-0.03%
TOTAL	5.56%	5.56%	-0.00%	5.56%	-0.00%	5.56%	0.00%	5.56%	-0.00%	5.56%	-0.00%	5.56%	0.00%

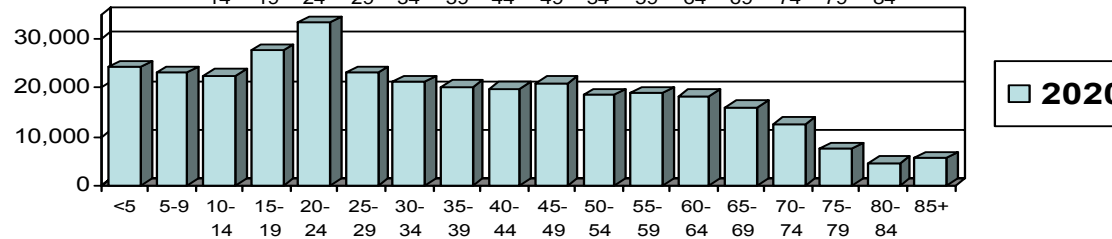
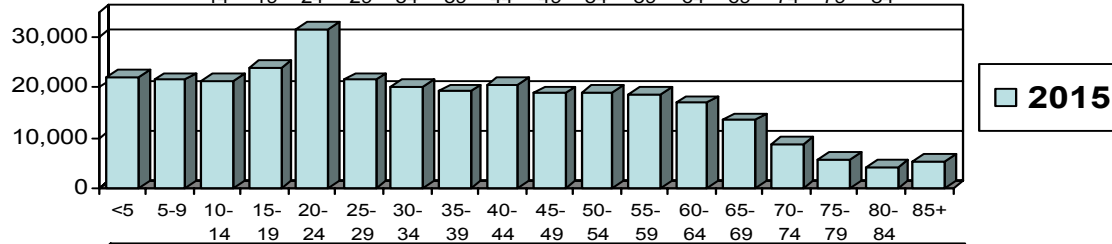
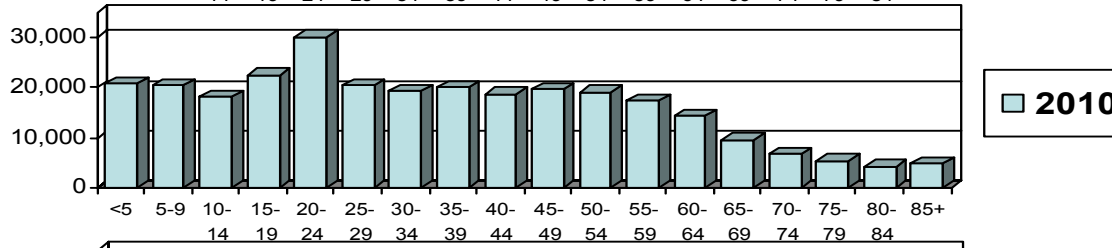
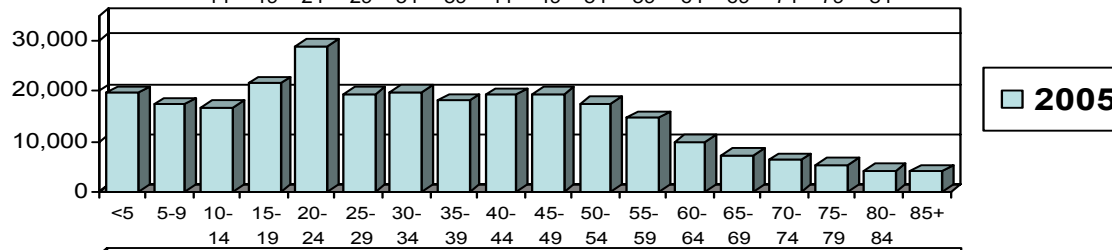
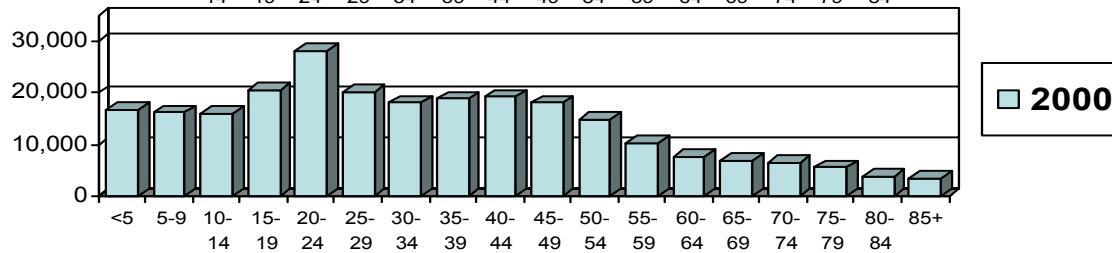
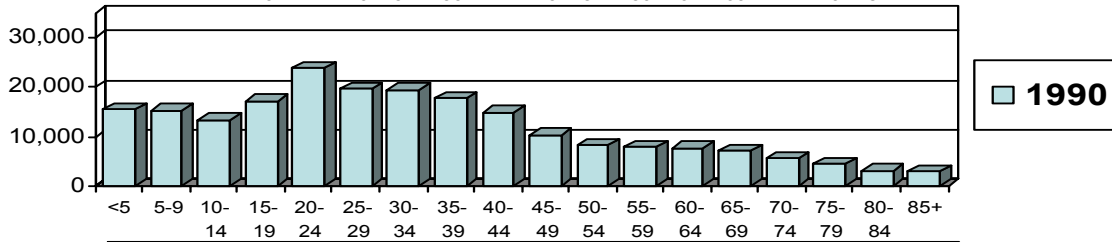
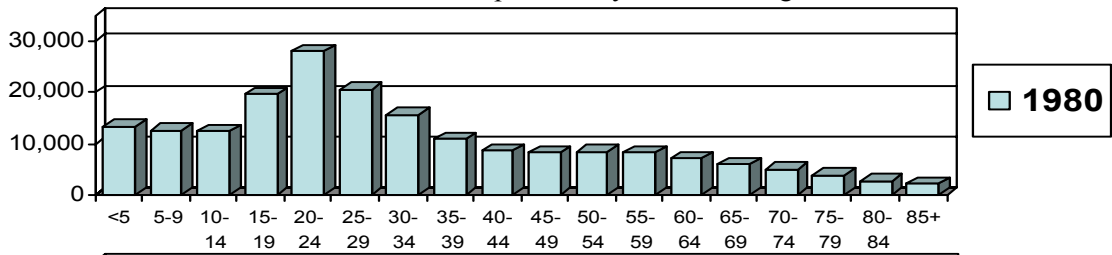
Source: City/County Planning Department and UNL Bureau of Business Research

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Appendix C

Lancaster County Age Distribution: 1980-2020

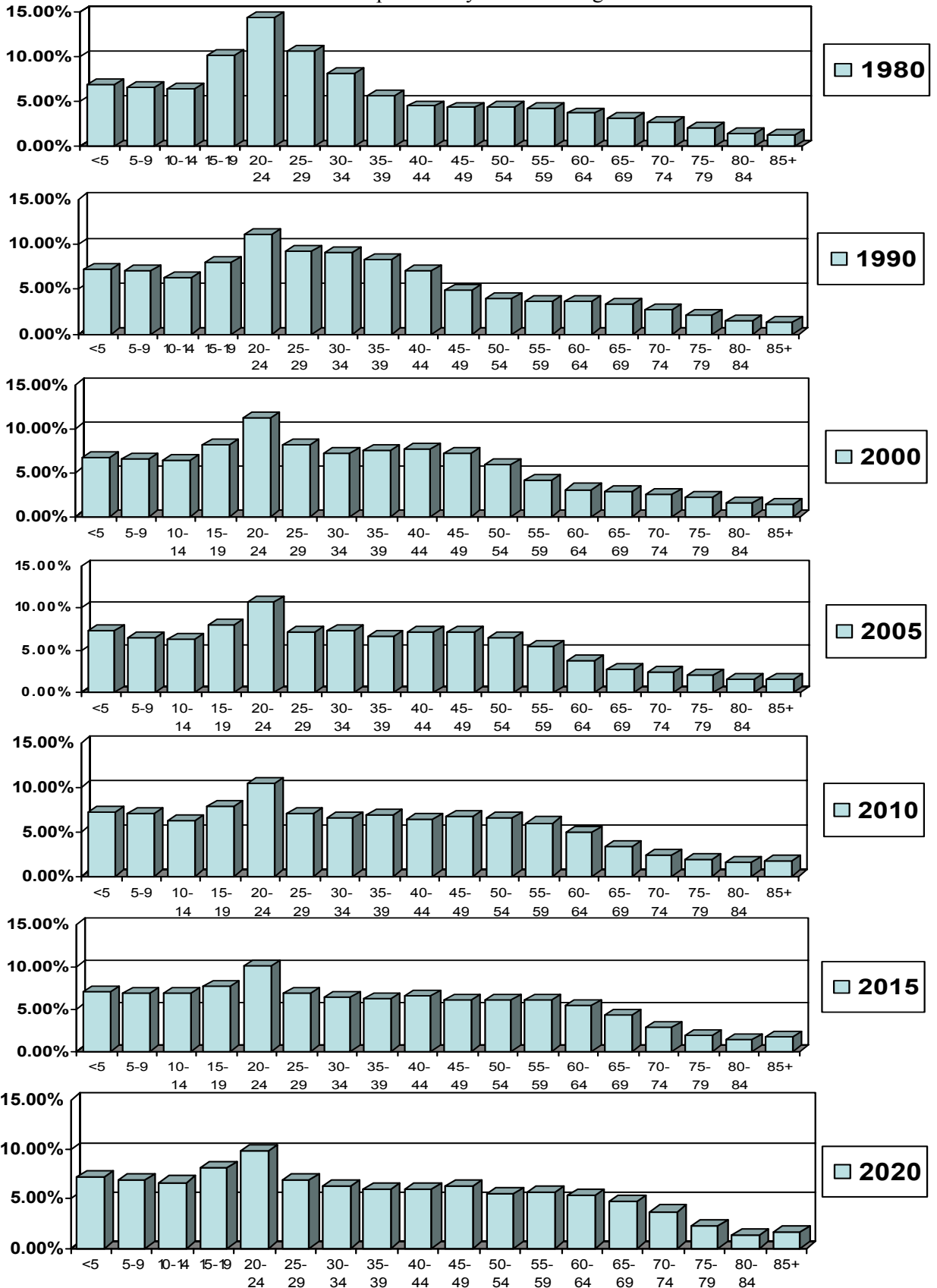
Total Population by Five Year Age Cohort



Appendix D

Lancaster County Age Distribution: 1980-2020

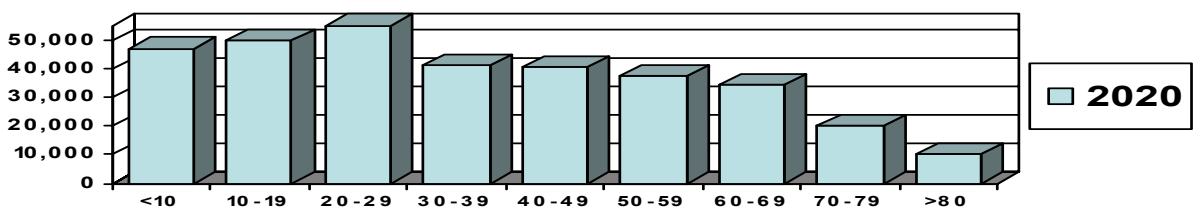
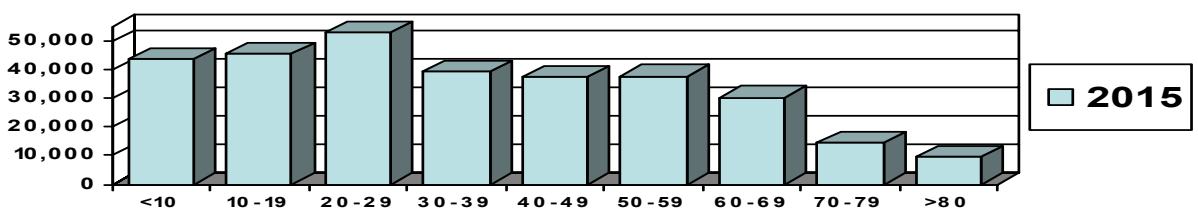
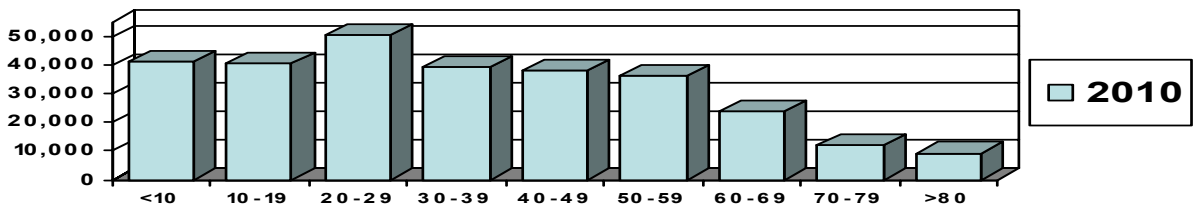
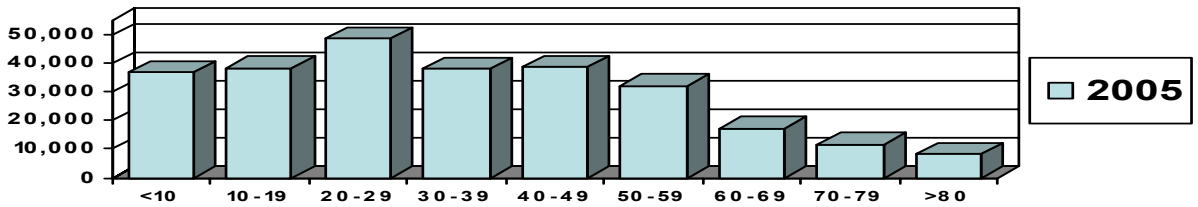
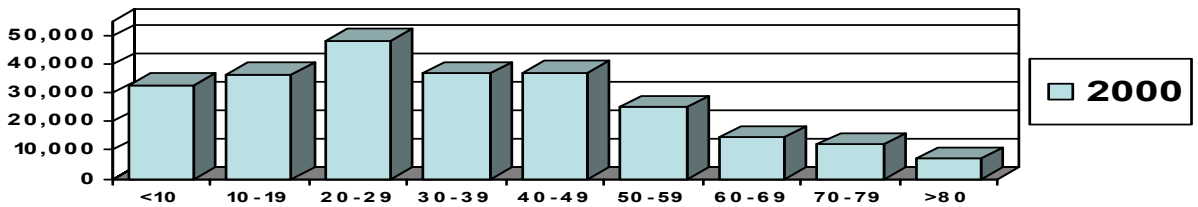
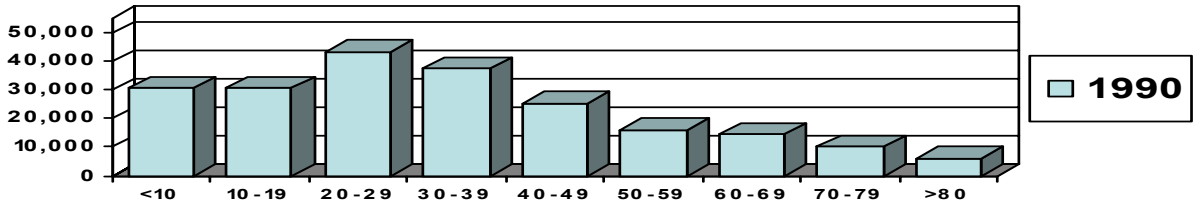
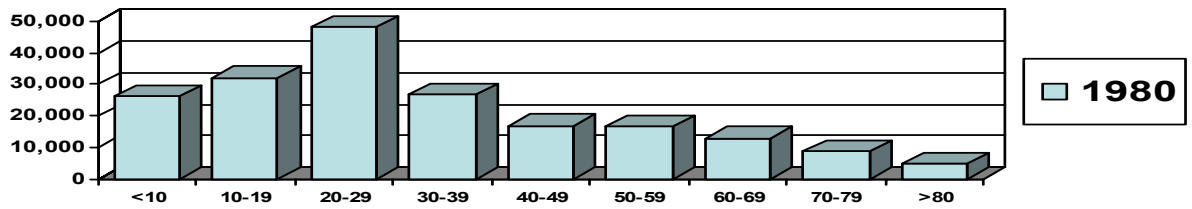
Percent of Population by Five Year Age Cohort



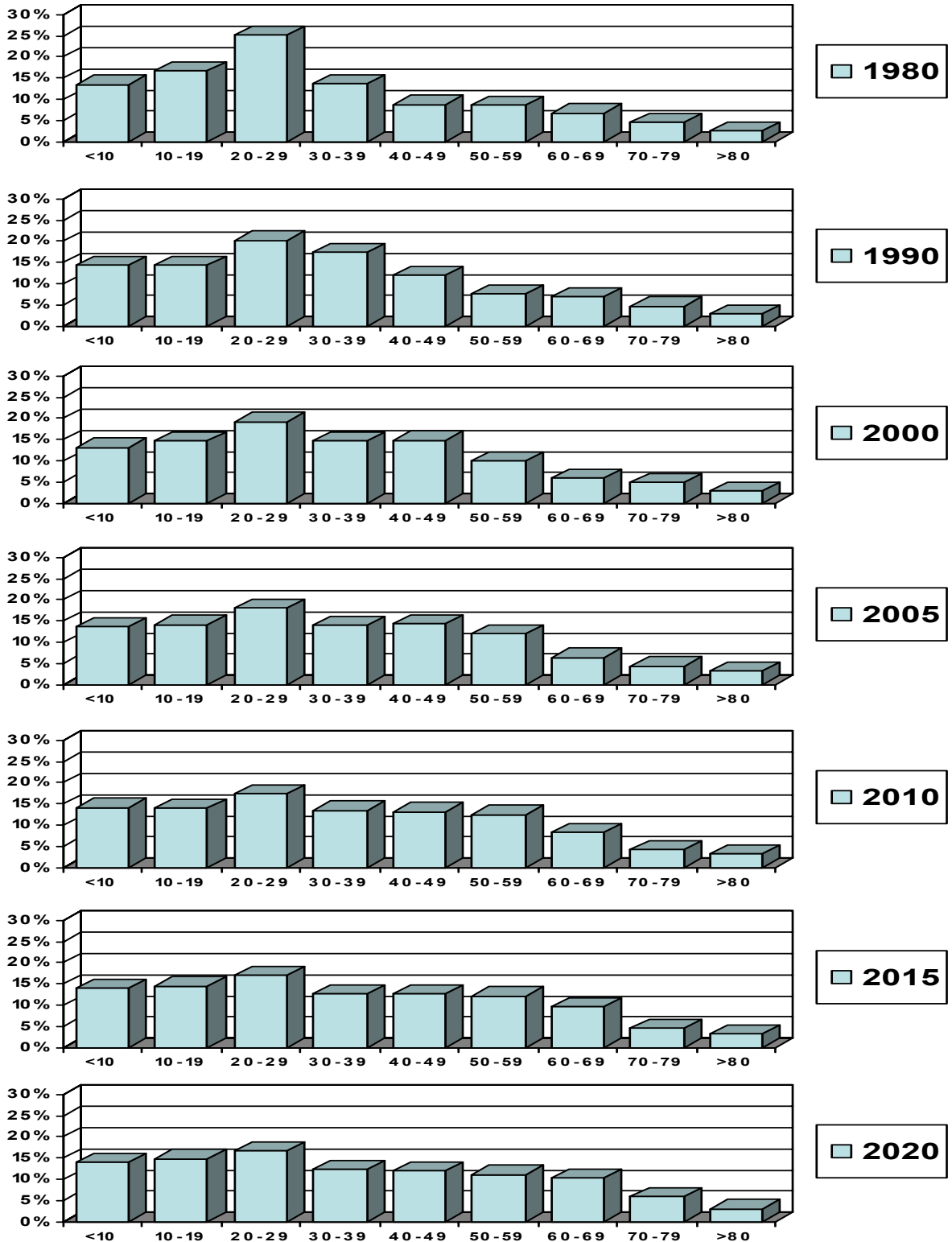
Appendix E

Lancaster County Age Distribution: 1980-2020

Total Population by Ten Year Age Cohort



Appendix F
Lancaster County Age Distribution: 1980-2020
Percent of Population by Ten Year Age Cohort



Appendix G **Lancaster County Age Distribution: 1980-2020** **Total and Percent Change by Five Year Age Cohort**

